

connected with the "Devil Bird": a husband suspecting the fidelity of his wife killed her child, whose paternity he doubted, and on his return placed before her a curry prepared from its flesh, of this the unfortunate woman partook but discovering a tell tale finger in the brew she fled in frenzy to the forest and there destroyed herself. On her death she was changed, according to Buddhist belief into an *Ulama* or "Devil Bird" which still at night horrifies the villagers by repeating the frantic scream of the bereaved mother in her agony.—Eds.]

No. XIX.—PYTHON ATTACKING A SPANIEL.

Perhaps the following short account may interest you, in fact I think the occurrence is probably unique.

Whilst camped at Bomanballi I was out with my wife, Mr. Wagle, foreman of Sambrani Sawmill, and my dog (a spaniel) on the 11th May forenoon, choosing a site for a tent. The dog was running ahead amongst some bushes when we heard terrible yells as though something was killing the dog. I rushed up with my walking stick and found the dog caught by a python. The python was coiled round the dog several times and all I could see of the dog was a small portion of its hind quarters. I beat the python as hard as I could with my stick and gradually it uncoiled itself until the dog was able to escape. The dog was streaming with blood from the mouth and chest but wanted to return and fight the python. The python measured $11\frac{3}{4}$ feet and had apparently been waiting patiently in the hope of catching a monkey as they were playing in a tree under which it was lying. The dog was bitten on the under lip and on the chest but no bones were broken and it was otherwise unhurt. The python was killed (or at least so we thought) and carried back to camp and left under a shady tree whilst we had breakfast prior to skinning it. Shortly afterwards a small boy ran into the tent and said the python was still alive. Sure enough it was not only alive but had very nearly succeeded in catching one of our chickens. This time we made sure of its death. It was the second python caught within a fortnight within a few hundred yards of our tent.

N. D. KANARA,
CAMP VIA DHARWAR,
30th May 1924.

R. G. SMITH, CAPT, I.F.S.,
Asstt. Conservator of Forests.

[In the "Snakes of Bombay Island and Salsette" published in Vol. XXX, No. 1, an incident is recorded of a python attacking a terrier dog.—Eds.]

No. XX.—NOTES ON THE EFFECT OF THE BITE OF MCMAHON'S VIPER (*ERISTOCOPHIS MCMAHONI*).

I had occasion to-day to get the loan of Major Wall's "Poisonous Terrestrial Snakes of our Indian Dominions", from a neighbouring planter, as one of my coolies had been bitten by a snake. In reading through it I came across your identification of *Eristocophis mcmahoni*.

It so happens that I have been resident in Baluchistan for many years (since 1903 to 1918), and have had no fewer than five cases of bite by this Viper. In one case of bite, where the snake was killed, I sent the reptile to the Curator, Quetta Museum, but unfortunately the bottle containing it was broken *en route*, and until to-day I have remained in ignorance of the identity of the snake.

I note you say as regards the poison that nothing is known.

If the following facts are of any use I shall feel that I have done some little good.

That the snake is very little known is obvious, since I have made exhaustive enquiries as to its identity, and have been told varying facts (or fallacies). That it is one of the Kraits, a species of *Echis*, a rock adder, etc.

My experiences of the snake have been as under:—

In 1917, at Kach, a woman was brought to the station suffering from a bite on the right instep. She had been carried in from a village 14 miles away, and